GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:653
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
GUIDELINES FOR E-WASTE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any guidelines for e-waste management;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to handle the fast increasing e-waste in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has formulated `Draft Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste' for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories and the industries for handling E-waste. These draft Guidelines are available on CPCB's website www.cpcb.nic.in. A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for finalization of these Guidelines.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which includes e-waste. These Rules regulate collection, storage, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous wastes including E-waste. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronics industry are considered as hazardous wastes and are listed at Sl. No. 31 of Schedule 1 of these rules. Further, the export and import of e-waste is regulated under Schedule 3 of these rules as Electrical and Electronic Assemblies covered under Sl. Nos. A 1180 and B 1110 of this Schedule. The import of wastes under this category is only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal.

Further, the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, has taken steps to promote adoption of cleaner technologies and to motivate the electronics industry to minimize the generation of waste in the electronics industry. A comprehensive technical guide on `Environmental Management for Information Technology Industry in India' published in 2004, has been circulated widely by the DIT.